

15 October 1946

SUBJECT: Monthly Activity Report, September 1946  
TO: The Director  
FROM: Chief, Communications Division

I. CONTINENTAL USA

- A. Activities during the month of September were largely concerned with the liquidation of present SSU commitments and the arrangements for a transfer of functions to the equivalent unit within the Central Intelligence Group. Consistent with the imminent change, liaison channels are being established with all major CIG components.

A special report on the status of the Central-South American project has been submitted to the Director. Several factors have combined to slow our recruiting of Communications personnel, but it is believed that sufficient radio operator-technicians will be processed to complete the Communications portion of the overall commitment. No decision has been reached relative to the base facilities which must be established in Continental USA to handle the radio circuits necessitated by the project. When the base station question has been decided, plans, now in progress, for the actual operation of the network, will be finalized. On the basis of inventories prepared by the FBI, the Communications Division is procuring radio equipment which will replace that turned over by the FBI to our operators in Central and South America. Communications has received from the Chief, FBI, a schedule of the estimated dates for activation of the various stations.

- B. Personnel. Three additional departmental clerks have been recruited to facilitate the processing of personnel necessary to meet the large commitments in the Near East and in Central and South America. Recruitment is necessarily proceeding slowly both because of the time expended in processing forms and because of the difficulty which the Division is having in interesting skilled technicians at the salaries established for specific jobs. An attempt is being made to screen personnel in the field to avoid the high mortality in security investigations and in the introductory interviews held in Washington.

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During the month of September, an additional three cryptographers and two radio operators were sent to [ ] and one cryptographer to [ ]. Transportation for the additional cryptographer authorized for [ ] is scheduled for mid-October and four cryptographers are now being trained for assignment to [ ]. At the request of FEZ, the Communications Division recruited an enlisted man who will serve with the newly-organized [ ] he will be trained in all aspects of Communications procedures and is due to depart about 15 November.

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Attached, as Inclosure 1, is the Monthly Strength Report, showing total civilian and military personnel assigned to the Communications Division as of 30 September 1946.

- C. Operations. An additional officer has been assigned to Operations. He is assisting with the planning of the Near East and South America nets and with the allocation of personnel and equipment for the activation of those nets.

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- D. Signal Security Control. Direct cipher communications have been successfully established with [ ] during the past month. In addition, changes in procedure have been initiated with [ ]. In cooperation with State Department, the new cable payment plan, [ ] has been activated for all outgoing Washington traffic to SSU stations using State cover for their communications, and incoming traffic from [ ] in the field is also covered.

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The Cipher Training School has trained ten Communications personnel, two radio operators, and thirteen special Desk personnel who will perform Communications duties in [ ].

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- E. Message Center. In mid-September, some delay in the reception and transmission of [ ] traffic was experienced due to the typhoon which damaged Navy facilities on Guam, a main relay point for all our traffic to and from [ ]. Normal service has now been restored.

Total traffic handled by the Washington Message Center increased from a total of 244,988 groups during the month of August to 291,717 groups for the month of September. This represents an increase of twenty per cent in total volume. Attached, as Inclosure 2, is a chart showing total traffic handled for the period 1-30 September.

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[ ] - In view of the increase in traffic during July and August, an additional communications clerk was processed for and arrived in late September.

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The detachment at Marseilles has been officially closed. Traffic with [ ] is no longer relayed through [ ] but directly with Washington.

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[ ] Traffic has increased by 50% over the months of July and August.

III. NEAR EAST

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No outstanding change. During September one radio operator, a Diesel Engineer, and the Acting Chief of the Near East network arrived in [ ]. An additional engineer and operator will leave in early October.

IV. FAR EAST.

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The changeover from Army to Navy facilities for traffic between Washington and [ ] was accomplished without incident or delay in communications. Traffic delays were noted in mid-September as a result of the storm which damaged relay facilities on Guam. There have been no changes in the radio net in [ ] during the past month.

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During August and September, Communications, [ ] lost three officers and three civilians but gained one officer (Captain [ ] Communications Officer), and nine civilian radio operator-technicians and cryptographic clerks. In addition to the personnel which arrived from USA, four ex-marines were recruited in the theater and, when security has been received, they will be assigned where needed as radio operators. The acute shortage of radio technicians is being temporarily met by a plan whereby those stations not adequately staffed at present receive periodic visits of technicians from headquarters.

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[ ]  
ons Division

Inclosures - 2

- 1 - Monthly Strength Report
- 2 - Traffic chart

MONTHLY STRENGTH REPORT

AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER

	<u>Military</u>	<u>Civilian</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total August</u>
Continental U. S.	13	84	97	99
Pending Shipment O/S	1	5	6	9
	6	27	33	31
	2	6	8	6
	-	2	2	2
	<u>6</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>44</u>
Total	28	163	191	191

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SECRET

MESSAGE CENTER WASHINGTON  
SUMMARY OF VOLUME OF TRAFFIC

SEPTEMBER 1946

	INWARD		OUTWARD		TOTAL	
	MSGs	GRPS	MSGs	GRPS	MSGs	GRPS
SSU Coded Traffic Relayed Through Washington	803	105,817	890	99,987	1,693	205,804
SSU Coded Traffic Originating In or Destined for Washington	269	30,803	409	55,110	678	85,913
Plain Text Domestic Telegrams (Wire Room)	20	706	77	1,484	97	2,190